

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings†

California Medical Association. Meetings will convene in Los Angeles. Dates of the seventy-third annual session, to be held in 1944, Sunday, Monday, May 7-8.

American Medical Association. Sessions will be held in Chicago (not St. Louis) on June 12-16, 1944. (See *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, November 6, 1943, page 644.)

The Platform of the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association advocates:

1. *The establishment of an agency of Federal Government under which shall be coordinated and administered all medical and health functions of the Federal Government, exclusive of those of the Army and Navy.*

2. *The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the care of the sick on proof of such need.*

3. *The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.*

4. *The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

5. *The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

6. *In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.*

7. *The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical services and to increase their availability.*

8. *Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.*

Medical Broadcasts*

The Los Angeles County Medical Association:

The following is the Los Angeles County Medical Association's radio broadcast schedule for the current month, all broadcasts being given on Saturdays.

KFAC presents the Saturday program at 10:15 a. m., under the title "Your Doctor and You."

In April, KFAC will present these broadcasts on the dates of April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.

The Saturday broadcasts of KFI are given at 9:45 a. m., under the title "The Road of Health."

"Doctors at War":

Radio broadcasts of "Doctors at War" by the American Medical Association, in cooperation with the National Broadcasting Company and the Medical Department of the United States Army and the United States Navy, are on the air each Saturday at 2 p. m., Pacific War Time. Series commenced on January 8, 1944. Will run for twenty-six weeks.

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged.

Pharmacological Items of Potential Interest to Clinicians*

1. *Streamlined Medical Journals:* Here's to R. C. Ransdell's snappy *U. S. Naval Medical Bulletin*, in the February issue of which E. Holman's "Working Rules in the Field" ring the bell for helpful medical advice (42:275). Helpful also is G. W. Calver's bibliography on shock (*Ibid.*, pp. 365-380). Always business-like with no space wasted is *Physiological Reviews*: January issue contains E. E. Osgood's "Cellular Composition of Bone-Marrow" (24:46); W. W. Swingle's "Rôle of the Adrenal Cortex" (p. 89); E. W. McHenry's "Lipotropic Factors" (referring to choline, lipocic and inositol, (p. 128), and L. H. Newburgh and J. W. Conn's discussion of "Obesity" (p. 18). Even *The Scientific Monthly* has been snapped up!

2. *Antibiotics:* E. McCawley says E. J. Poth and C. A. Ross's phthalylsulfathiazole (*Texas Rep. Biol. Med.*, 1:345, 1943) marks the end of an era: now for antibiotics! Pioneering S. A. Waksman & Co. describe "Streptomycin" from *Streptomyces* as effective vs. Gram positive and negative bacteria (*Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 55:66, 1944). P. Gyorgy and P. C. Elmes (*Ibid.*, p. 76) find nondeliquescent calcium salt of penicillin no more toxic for man than Na-salt, contrary to Florey's advice (*Lancet*, 1:387, 1943). N. Atkinson and N. Stanley find that SH cmpds. such as thioglycolates, glutathione and cysteine specifically suppress "penicidin" either by reduction or enzyme competition (*Australia J. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 21:249, Dec., 1943). J. W. Foster and H. B. Woodruff show that dissociated streptothricin loses activity (*Arch. Biochem.*, 3:241, Dec., 1943). Patulin, from *Penicillium patulin* (H. Raistrick, *Lancet*, 245:633, 1943), found identical with S. Waksman's "clavacin" from *Aspergillus clavatus* (I. Hooper, *Science*, 99:16, 1944), is now reported identical with "claviformin" from *Penicillium claviforme* (E. Chain & Co., *Lancet*, 246:112, January 22, 1944). How about penicillin? When do we get over the hush-hush and argument about its composition?

3. *Chemotherapy:* O-O! P. C. Sen Gupta notes neuropathic sequelae after diamidinostilbene therapy in kala-azar (*Ind. Med. Gaz.*, 78:537, November, 1943). J. V. Scudi and V. C. Jelenek report urinary excretion of atabrine complex, with some atabrine appearing unchanged (*J. Biol. Chem.*, 152:27, 1944). H. G. Barbour & Co., show B-tetrahydronaphthylamine aids in recovery in hypothermia and hydration from chilling (*Yale J. Biol. Med.*, 16:231, 1944). R. L. Cahen & Co. report morphine not specific in depressing cortical electrical activity, but that morphine reduces tissue permeability (*Ibid.*, p. 239, 257). Trust the English to beat the silly censor: H. E. Holling & Co. discuss prevention of sea sickness by drugs, finding hyoscine in doses around 1 mgm. most useful (*Lancet*, 246:127, January 22, 1944). Maybe R. T. Fick' & Co.'s report will quiet the too long foolishness of ethylene disulfonate in a dilution of 1:10-15 for asthma! (*J. Allergy*, 15:14, 1944).

4. *Etc.* E. Gutmann and J. Z. Young make important study on re-inervation of muscle after various periods of atrophy (*J. Anat.*, 78:15, 1944). W. P. Chapman and

* These items submitted by Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, formerly director of the University of California Pharmacologic Laboratory, now dean of the University of Texas Medical School, Galveston, Texas.

C. M. Jones begin careful study on variations in pain-perceptions and pain-reactions in average humans (*J. Clin. Invest.*, 23:81, 1944). T. S. Danowski suggests use of thiourea as a measure of change in body water (*J. Biol. Chem.*, 152:207, 1944). G. H. Bourne shows ascorbic acid necessary for usual phosphatase activity and bone deposition (*J. Physiol.*, 102:319, Dec. 31, 1943). M. Vogt in studying cortical hormone output finds rapid inactivation (*Ibid.*, p. 356). P. E. Steiner & Co. report a toxic factor in tissues of cases of nonspecific ulcerative colitis (*Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, 55:8, 1944). G. Decherd, A. Ruskin and G. Herrmann describe momentary atrial electrical axes in paroxysmal tachycardia (*Ibid.*, p. 17). A. J. Salle and H. L. Guest find increased efficiency of phenolic germicides on adding ferrous and ferric salts to produce redox systems (*Ibid.*, p. 26). M. G. Goldner and G. Gomori say that alloxan causes diabetes by direct injury to beta cells (*Ibid.*, p. 73). W. Modell and S. Krop find that in terms of effective mercury, nonionizable organic mercurials are not less toxic than mercury bichloride (*Ibid.*, p. 80). And H. S. Burr discusses the effect of the moon on tree growth (*Yale J. Biol. Med.*, 16:249, 1944).

Popular Medical Lectures by Stanford University School of Medicine.—The Stanford University School of Medicine announces the sixty-second course of Popular Medical Lectures (illustrated). Lectures will be given at Lane Hall, North Side of Sacramento Street, near Webster, on Friday evenings: March 17; March 31; April 14; and April 28, 1944; eight o'clock sharp. All interested are cordially invited to attend.

Program follows: Friday evening, March 17, 1944, "*Treatment of Infantile Paralysis*," William H. Northway, M. D.

Friday evening, March 31, 1944, "*Caudal Anesthesia in Obstetrics*," Albert V. Pettit, M. D.

Friday evening, April 14, 1944, "*Nutrition: One Factor in the Health Program*," Nina Simmonds, Sc.D.

Friday evening, April 28, 1944, "*Psychological Types and Marriage*," Horace Gray, M. D.

Maternity Pediatric (E.M.I.C.) Care Given 11,571 Californians.—A total of 11,571 maternity and pediatric cases have been cared for in California under the Emergency Maternity and Infant Care Program, the Children's Bureau announced recently.

Only New York and Illinois have had more cases than California.

The total extends through the month of January. More than 2200 cases were reported in both December and January.

The Size of "California and Western Medicine" Reduced: Governmental Directive.—Commencing on January 1, 1944, it has been necessary to reduce the number of pages in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE by 10 per cent. The governmental directive applies to all publications, and has been issued in order to conserve paper. The saving has been accomplished by reduction in number of pages in both the text and the advertising divisions. Hereafter some of the rosters which have appeared in every issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE will have place only on alternate months.

Penicillin Plant For Berkeley.—A \$600,000 plant for producing penicillin, the new "miracle drug," will be in operation by November 1, in Berkeley, it was recently announced by Charles Twining, vice-president of the Cutter Laboratories.

Sixty scientists will be on the staff, Twining said, once the plant is in operation.

The building, first penicillin producing plant on the

coast, will be constructed adjoining the company's Berkeley laboratories at Fourth and Parker Streets as the result of a contract granted by the Defense Plant Corporation, a subsidiary of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Ground already has been broken for the plant, which will be 220 by 60 feet.

American Public Health Association.—The Executive Board of the American Public Health Association announces the Second Wartime Public Health Conference and the 73rd Annual Business Meeting in New York City, October 3, 4, and 5, 1944. Meetings of related organizations will take place on Monday, October 2. Headquarters will be the Hotel Pennsylvania. The scientific program will be devoted to wartime emergency matters as they affect public health. The Chairman of the Local Committee in Charge of Arrangements is New York City's Health Commissioner, Ernest L. Stebbins.

CALIFORNIA PHYSICIANS' SERVICE*

(Continued from Page 211)

It will be noticed that I have not mentioned the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill. I have purposely refrained from going into that piece of legislation at this time. I have no doubt that after hearings have been held there will be ample opportunity for discussion in both Houses. In the meantime, I have tried to bring out some of the advantages of what to me is one of the longest steps forward in the direction of achieving what we all desire—better medical care for the American people.

It so happens that I was a member of the California Physicians' Service for a considerable period of time. I have had intimate knowledge of its operations and have seen what it has accomplished for many of its beneficiary members. On the basis of my knowledge of this organization and with confidence in the integrity and leadership of the medical profession of this country, I believe that the doctors of this land should lead the way in providing prepaid medical care for our citizens. (Ed. Notes. See also pp. 191 and 227.)

Home Office Building, Washington, D. C.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE†

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Autopsy Permits

It is generally the law that where an autopsy is performed without the consent of those who have the right to control the disposition of the corpse, the person performing the autopsy or the one responsible for its performance is liable in damages. There are a great number of cases where this liability has been enforced. In *Woods v. Graham*, 140 Minn. 16, it was held in an action to recover damages for an autopsy performed on the body of a corpse, without first obtaining consent of the next of kin, that it was no defense that the defendant, as attending physician, was

* For press association dispatch from Washington on Congressman Outland's speech, see on page 230.

† Editor's Note.—The department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, presenting copy submitted by Hartley F. Peart, Esq., will contain excerpts from the syllabi of recent decisions and analyses of legal points and procedures of interest to the profession.